

forms a colony within 2 days at 37°C when the bacterium is cultivated on an agar medium containing acetic acid or acetate as a sole carbon source.

9. (New) A mutant strain of *Escherichia coli* which has an ability to produce and accumulate arginine, and which grows faster than the parental strain of the mutant strain when the *Escherichia coli* strain is cultivated in a medium containing acetic acid or acetate as a sole carbon source.

10. (New) The *Escherichia coli* according to claim 7, wherein the bacterium is *Escherichia coli* K-12.

11. (New) The *Escherichia coli* according to claim 8, wherein the bacterium is *Escherichia coli* K-12.

12. (New) The *Escherichia coli* according to claim 9, wherein the bacterium is *Escherichia coli* K-12.

13. (New) *Escherichia coli* strain 382 deposited as VKPM B-7926, which produces and accumulates arginine in a medium when cultivated in the medium; and which utilizes acetate; and mutants thereof.

14. (New) A mutant *Escherichia coli* strain obtained from *Escherichia coli* 237 deposited as VKPM B-7925, which mutant *Escherichia coli* produces and accumulates arginine in a medium when cultivated in the medium; and which utilizes acetate.

15. (New) A method of producing arginine, comprising cultivating the isolated *Escherichia coli* of Claim 7 in a medium to produce and accumulate arginine in the medium; and collecting the arginine from the medium.

16. (New) A method of producing arginine, comprising cultivating the isolated *Escherichia coli* of Claim 8 in a medium to produce and accumulate arginine in the medium; and collecting the arginine from the medium.

17. (New) A method of producing arginine, comprising cultivating the mutant strain of *Escherichia coli* of Claim 9 in a medium to produce and accumulate arginine in the medium; and collecting the arginine from the medium.

18. (New) A method of producing arginine, comprising cultivating the *Escherichia coli* of Claim 10 in a medium to produce and accumulate arginine in the medium; and collecting the arginine from the medium.

19. (New) A method of producing arginine, comprising cultivating the *Escherichia coli* of Claim 11 in a medium to produce and accumulate arginine in the medium; and collecting the arginine from the medium.

20. (New) A method of producing arginine, comprising cultivating the *Escherichia coli* of Claim 12 in a medium to produce and accumulate arginine in the medium; and collecting the arginine from the medium.

21. (New) A method of producing arginine, comprising cultivating the *Escherichia coli* of Claim 13 in a medium to produce and accumulate arginine in the medium; and collecting the arginine from the medium.

22. (New) A method of producing arginine, comprising cultivating the *Escherichia coli* of Claim 14 in a medium to produce and accumulate arginine in the medium; and collecting the arginine from the medium.